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the present with her own hypotheses? What the reviser has done seems hardly justified, whether we regard *American Charities* as a sacred book or as a simple contribution to one stage of social development.

Among the things which a textbook on charities may do are the following: (1) It may present case histories to bring out both causal factors and methods of social service. (2) It may present philanthropy as a function of the general social life, changing with the development of commerce and industry, religion, science, and democracy. (3) It may present statistically and descriptively causal factors with reference to community programs for the prevention of poverty. (4) It may present methods of organization, administration, and supervision, the business aspect of charities.

The book hardly pretends to accomplish either the first or the second of these ends. The third possibility is undertaken in a manner that has already been shown to be inconsistent and confusing. The fourth is done fairly well, although there is little more than passing reference to such agencies as the Cleveland Federation, the Transportation Agreement, the Confidential Exchange, or the Illinois Department of Public Welfare.

In form and workmanship the book is above reproach. Nevertheless under the circumstances it seems doubtful if the work was worth doing.

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The Frontiers of Language and Nationality in Europe. By LEON DOMINIAN. New York: Henry Holt & Co. 1917. Pp. xviii+375.

From the main thesis of Mr. Dominian's book there can be no reason for dissenting. His contention is that, as a practical matter, national frontiers can best be distinguished by linguistic characteristics, and, as a general rule, boundary lines should follow the separation of languages. There are exceptions to the rule, to be sure; there is Belgium, Switzerland, and even Alsace-Lorraine, where many German-speaking communities are "nationally" French; or the Eastern Adriatic coast, where Jugo-Slav nationalists sing of Serbian hopes in the language of their enemies, the Italians. Linguistic boundaries are not the best, but they are the least troublesome at present. There is the additional nuisance that adjoining linguistic areas are apt to be divided by a strip of a bilingual population. Yet this is true only of the cities and more populous

centers; villages are seldom bilingual, unless they are made up of nomadic and seasonal populations like the Aromunes of the Pindus or the Polish and Ruthenian seasonal agricultural laborers working in Germany, Hungary, or Roumania.

With this as a foundation, Mr. Dominian passes in review all the disputed areas of speech of Europe and Asia Minor. Excepting Turkish lands, where the author speaks apparently from first-hand information or based on primary sources, all the other regions under consideration are apt to be treated from secondary sources and second-hand information. This means that the deeper underlying causes of nationalistic antagonisms are missed and the information supplied is scanty and debatable. Take for example the chapter on "The Land of Hungarian and Roumanian Languages." Most of the information contained there is quite harmless and unenlightening, and some of it incorrect. We are told that "the Roumanian problem in Hungary is mainly economic," but nothing more is said about it. Apparently the author derived his information from Wallis, who contends that the Roumanian-Magyar problem is due to the fact that the first lives in the infertile highlands, the second in the fertile lowlands which the first is trying to occupy. This does not tell the story of the Roumanian-Magyar conflict. That conflict is to be interpreted in the light of the whole economic and political situation of Hungary; the existence of a controlling ring made up of large landowners and their political henchmen; the most restricted suffrage in Europe, leading to an internal imperialism, designed to turn attention away from the fundamental social and economic problems. Incidentally the example of Roumanian language given on page 160 should be taken out in the next edition, because it is not Roumanian. It is a manufactured tongue very much in vogue up to about forty years ago among a group of nationalistic philologists who, after the manner of Corais in Greece, were determined to model Roumanian as closely as they could upon the old Latin, in order to prove conclusively their Roman origin. Modern Roumanian scholarship has completely discarded all this childishness.¹

There is ostensibly an attempt at a speculative interpretation of the facts presented, an interpretation on the basis of anthropogeography. Yet that is not to be taken seriously, because Mr. Dominian very wisely lets the facts speak for themselves most of the time, and the conclusion to which they point is in accord with the suggestion thrown out, "that the influence of physical features in the formation of European national-

¹See Densușianu, *Histoire de la langue Roumaine*. Paris, 1900.

ities has been exerted with maximum intensity in the early period of their history"; which means very little, because nationality is essentially a modern product. What geography did was to limit intercourse between similar groups and work against nationality. Only when geographical barriers were broken down, and similar groups could come to know each other, did nationality become a factor. The case of Northern and Southern Italy is an illustration. The book pays a great deal of attention to the subject of national characters and geographical influence, but discussions of this subject will not be worth taking seriously until we have first developed a technique for the study of national characteristics and then found out something definite about them. This can only be done after we have learned something about individual characteristics, which we are just beginning to do. If Russian melancholy and fatalism is due to the steppe, what about the Roumanian with his "asa mi-a fost scris" (It was destined so to be) who has lived most of his life in a mountain environment? If Southern idioms express "feeling and harmony," the characteristics of poetry, what becomes of English poetry, avowedly the greatest body of poetry in modern times? Furthermore the author speaks of the blending of the racial characters of the Nordics, the Alpines, and the Mediterraneans before the close of the neolithic period, in order to explain the characters of today; but very calmly he proceeds to take the characters which he wishes to explain as the very basis of the explanation. We are, with regard to national characteristics, still in that immature stage which the study of sex characteristics is gradually leaving behind. The attempt to foist on us inherent sex differences was met by wholesome criticism, but such criticism is unfortunately lacking, or is very meager, when it comes to racial or national differences, and so we are destined to flounder for a long time in this bog of adventitious differences parading under a mask of heredity.

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A Fraudulent Standard. An Exposure of the Fraudulent Character of our Monetary Standard with Suggestions for the Establishment of an Invariable Unit of Value. BY ARTHUR KITSON. London: P. S. King & Son, 1917. Pp. xv+233.

It is Mr. Kitson's contention that "the gold standard is a legalized fraud, a delusion, and a snare." Under present arrangements any strain upon our monetary and banking system is met by extensions of credit